

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 PM-03 COME-00 EB-07 ACDA-05 IO-10

ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03

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O R 241400Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 711

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 3183

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, ES, HO

SUBJECT: GOES REQUEST FOR ARTIFICIAL RAIN-MAKING INFORMATION

REF: SAN SALVADOR 2928

1. EMBASSY FULLY SYMPATHETIC WITH SALVADORAN CONCERN OVER LACK OF PRECIPITATION AND ITS EFFECTS.

2. HOWEVER, AS EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR CORRECTLY POINTS OUT, WIDE LOCAL PUBLICITY TO CURRENT CHARGES FROM MEXICAN SOURCES THAT U.S. TINKERING WITH WEATHER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVIATING HURRICANE FIFI INTO HONDURAS MAKES ANY U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ARTIFICALLY INDUCING LOCAL WEATHER CHANGES EXTREMELY DANGEROUS TO U.S. POSITION HERE. WE BELIEVE THIS OBJECTION HOLDS EVEN IF GOES DOES SEEDING ITSELF, ACTING ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY USG.

3. GIVEN GROWING DISASTER PROPORTIONS OF CURRENT DROUGHT IN HONDURAS, USG WOULD BE ALL THE MORE VULNERABLE, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF POSSIBLE CHARGES GOES ACTIONS WERE AGGRAVATING DROUGHT IN HONDURAS. SUCH CHARGES COULD ALSO DEEPEN EXISTING HONDURAN-SALVADORAN ANIMOSITIES.
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4. GIVEN MUTUAL NEED OF BOTH COUNTRIES FOR WATER, A JOINT APPROACH TO USG ON PROBLEM WOULD BE LOGICAL BUT THIS MOST IMPROBABLE IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. MOREOVER, IF ANY RESULTANT RAINFALL FELL CHIEFLY IN ONE COUNTRY (WE

ARE NOT INFORMED OF THE ACCURACY OF THE ART), WE WOULD CERTAINLY BE BLAMED BY THE OTHER. AND IN ANY CASE, IT WOULD GIVE CREDENCE TO CURRENT CHARGES U.S. IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN ALTERING WEATHER PATTERNS, WHATEVER OUR PROTESTATIONS.

5. ON BALANCE, EMBASSY STRONGLY URGES AGAINST ANY USG INVOLVEMENT ON SALVADORAN REQUEST. IF COMMERCIAL SOURCES POSSESS THIS KNOW-HOW, PERHAPS CEL COULD BE DIRECTED TO THEM, OR TO THE UN FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.
SANCHEZ

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